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Control: 9246
Rec'd: June 18, 1954
1:45 p.m.
REVIEWED BY J.M. Rapp DATE May 6, 1982

FROM: Tripoli

TO: Secretary of State

NO: 470, June 18,

NIACT

I am presenting 1 million dollars to Prime Minister Ben Halim at ceremony at Federal Government offices Tripoli 0730 hours Greenwish Mean Time June 19.

Following is exchange of letters which will be made:

"Excellency:

I have the honor to inform you that, in view of the continuing interest of the United States of America in the development of Libyan economy, I have been authorized to present to the United Kingdom of Libya an advance payment of $1 million as part of the total contribution which the United States of America is prepared to make to Libya for economic aid.

This contribution is made with the clear understanding that, by accepting it, the United Kingdom of Libya is in no way prejudicing its interests with regard to possible future arrangements between our two governments in connection with economic assistance.

Accept, Excellency, the renewed assurance of my highest consideration. (Signed Villard)".

2. "Mr. Minister:

I have the honor to acknowledge your letter of June 18, 1954, in which you informed me that you have been authorized to present the Government of The United Kingdom of Libya the sum of $1 million, representing an advance payment which is part of the total contribution which the United States of America is prepared to make to Libya for economic aid, as evidence of the continuing interest of the United States of America in the development of the Libyan economy.

It is my understanding, on the basis of your letter, that, by accepting this contribution, the United Kingdom of Libya is in no way prejudicing its interests with regard to possible future arrangements between our two governments in connection with economic assistance.

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On behalf of my government and the people of the United Kingdom of Libya, I wish to express my sincere gratitude to the United States of America for this contribution.

Accept, Mr. Minister, the renewed assurances of my highest consideration. (Signed Mustapha Ben Halim)".

Legation has made Arabic translations of exchange which have been approved by Prime Minister.

USIS here will make press statement in addition to release from Libyan Government. Department may wish release at same time foregoing exchange of letters.

VILLARD

BB:AW/9

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